

Recognitions at April 2008 State Board Meeting

- **Project Learning Tree 2008 Outstanding Educator of the Year**

State Board of Education member Gerrita Postlewait (left) and Deputy Superintendent for Administration Janice Poda (right) congratulate Susan Ward, who teaches seventh grade at [Whittemore Park Middle School](#) in Conway. Ward is one of five 2008 National Outstanding Educators of the Year selected by Project Learning Tree, the environmental education program of the [American Forest Foundation](#). These teachers were honored for their commitment to environmental education, exceptional teaching skills, and exemplary use of Project Learning Tree materials. Ward was cited for launching school-wide recycling programs for paper, plastics, and metal; helping to develop and maintain a nature trail and a backyard habitat at Daisy Elementary; creating an outdoor classroom and a garden for environmental studies at Loris Elementary; teaching students to conserve energy and increasing awareness of their responsibility as citizens to take care of the environment; and involving her students in river sweeps to clean up litter. She was accompanied to the board meeting by her husband.



- **Summerville High student records perfect 2400 score on the SAT**

Deputy Superintendent for Administration Janice Poda (right) and State Board of Education member Patsy Pye (second from right) congratulate [Summerville High School](#) student Jake Stauch (center), who scored a perfect 2400 on the SAT this past January. Jake did what only about 270 students in the nation have done – get a score of 800 on the [College Board's](#) critical reading, math and writing sections. Jake ranked at the top of his junior class and is currently enrolled in Advanced Placement calculus, physics and U.S. History at Summerville High. He is also taking his third year of Latin. He plans to attend [Duke University](#) in Durham, NC, and major in biology. He was accompanied to the State Board meeting by his principal, Roger Edwards (left) and is flanked by his parents, Jeff and Shari Stauch.



- **Two make “Schools to Watch” nationwide listing**

Deputy Superintendent for Administration Janice Poda and State Board of Education members Diane Sumpter and Rick Adkins congratulate two of South Carolina’s middle schools – [Blythewood Middle School](#) in Richland District Two and [Palmetto Middle School](#) in Anderson District One – both among the most recent 124 schools nationwide to earn distinction as “Schools to Watch.” This program, established in 1999 by the [National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform](#), honors high-performing middle schools that share three common characteristics:

- They are academically excellent—challenging all students to use their minds well.
- They are developmentally responsive—sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence.
- They are socially equitable—democratic and fair, providing every student with high-quality teachers, resources and support.

Shown in the photo below are (from left) Dr. Wayne Fowler, Anderson One superintendent; Rick Adkins; Palmetto Middle principal Barry Knight; Sheri Whitlock, Blythewood Middle; Marlon Thomas, Blythewood Middle assistant principal; Diane Sumpter; and Janice Poda.

